

U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers
Baltimore District

Public Notice

In Reply to Application Number CENAB-OP-RMN (MARYLAND MARITINE, INC/DREDGING) 2008-01481-M02

PN-08-42

Comment Period: June 30, 2008 to July 30, 2008

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW.AT THIS TIME, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSSUED.

The Baltimore District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act.

APPLICANT: Maryland Maritime, Inc.

c/o Barnes Engineering, Inc.

119 Rosewood Drive Metairie, LA 70005

LOCATION: Patapsco River, at 396 East Cromwell Street, Baltimore City, Maryland

WORK: The applicant proposes to mechanically dredge a 1,010 foot by 160 foot area to 32 feet below mean lower low water, and to deposit the approximately 10,000 cubic yards of dredged material at the Hart Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility in Baltimore County, Maryland. The purpose of the project is to maintain the water depths at an existing ship berth. A permit for this project, if issued, would authorize periodic maintenance dredging subject to the prior notification of the District Engineer.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment: The Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation Act (MSFCA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect EFH. The EFH designations within the Northeast Region (Maine to Virginia), dated March 1, 1999 include EFH for a number of species in various life stages. This waterway has EFH listed for juvenile and adult windowpane flounder (Scopthalmus aquosus), summer flounder (Paralicthys dentatus), and bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix); egg, larva, juvenile and adult life stages of king mackerel (Scomberomorus cavalla), Spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus maculatus), cobia (Rachycentron canadum), and red drum (Scianeops occelatus). These are managed species under the MSFCA. A preliminary assessment indicates that the proposed work would not have a substantial adverse effect on either managed species or prey species. Therefore, no EFH conservation measures have been developed. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

All work is to be completed in accordance with the enclosed plans. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Jon Romeo of this office at (410) 962-6079.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials: Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Written comments concerning the work described above related to the factors listed above or other pertinent factors must be received by the District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, PO Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1715, within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration.

The applicant must obtain any State or local government permits which may be required

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located at the site of the proposed work. Currently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit.

Any person who has an interest which may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may request a public hearing. The request, which must be in writing, must be received by the District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, PO Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, within the comment period as specified as above to receive consideration. Also, it must clearly state forth the interest which may be adversely affected by this activity in the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected.

It is requested that you communicated the foregoing information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and not being known to this office, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER

JOSEPH P. DAVIA

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Chief, Maryland Section Northern





